

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT
USSN 09/320,643
Attorney Docket Q54188

the first emission lay (X-Z) comprises a pair of converging lenses (13) housed within the casing at symmetrical location with respect to the optical axis (Z) of the objective lens (9), between the first array of light sources (6) and the reading window.

73. An apparatus according to Claim 60, wherein the converting means comprises a main digitalizer having a preset sensitivity, and an auxiliary digitalizer whose sensitivity is higher than that of the main digitalizer.

74. A method according to Claim 67, wherein if the check in step e1) gives a negative result consecutively for a predetermined number j of times, the following step is carried out:

- e1b1a) switching to a second configuration mode by activating, rather than the main digitalizer, an auxiliary digitalizer having higher sensitivity than that of the main digitalizer, and iteratively repeating the steps from a), to switch back to the first configuration mode if alternatively:

- a decoding attempt is successful;
- the check in step e1) gives a negative result consecutively for a number j of times;
- a number of unsuccessful decoding attempts is made which is greater than a predetermined number q.

75. A method according to Claim 67, wherein if the check in step e1) gives a negative result consecutively for a predetermined number j of times and at least one decoding attempt has been unsuccessful, or a number of unsuccessful decoding attempts is made which is greater than a predetermined number p, the following step is carried out:

- e1b1b) switching to a third configuration mode by activating, rather than the main digitalizer, an auxiliary digitalizer having higher sensitivity than that of the main digitalizer, and iteratively repeating the steps from a), to switch back to the first configuration mode if alternatively:

- a decoding attempt is successful;
- the check in step e1) gives a negative result consecutively for a number j of times.

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76. A method according to Claim 75, wherein if in step e1b1b) a number of unsuccessful decoding attempts is made which is greater than a predetermined number q, the following step is carried out:

- e1b1b1) switching to a fourth configuration mode by activating the main digitalizer and the second array of light sources and controlling the emission from the sources in the first array of light sources, and iteratively repeating the steps from a), to switch back to the first configuration mode if a decoding attempt is successful.

77. A method according to Claim 76, wherein if in step e1b1b1) a number of unsuccessful decoding attempts is made which is greater than a predetermined number p, or the check in step e1) gives a negative result consecutively for a predetermined number j of times, the following step is carried out:

- e1b1b1a) switching to a fifth configuration mode by activating the auxiliary digitalizer and the second array of light sources and iteratively repeating the steps from a), to switch back to the first configuration mode if alternatively:

- a decoding attempt is successful;

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cont'D.
- the check in step e1) gives a negative result consecutively for a predetermined number j of times;
 - a number of unsuccessful decoding attempts is made which is greater than a predetermined number q.

78. A method according to Claim 75, further comprising a step of varying the amplification level by suddenly forcing a predetermined maximum value before respectively switching from the third configuration mode to the fourth one, and from the fourth and fifth configuration modes to the first one.--
